

My name is Cheryl Ruffolo; I am 45 years old, married with four children, Lauren 17, Alex 15, Brooke 14, & Jaclyn 11. We have two dogs and we reside in Farmington Hills, MI. I have blue eyes, red hair and fair skin. I am a patient of Dr. Kaye Watnick. In 2002, I was diagnosed by Dr. Watnick with a Melanoma. The Melanoma was located on the back of my left thigh. The day I got the phone call from Dr. Watnick was a life altering day, one that I hope my family never has to experience again. I remember hearing her voice and yet, I could not understand anything she was saying on the phone. I knew that a melanoma was the most deadly form of skin cancer that anyone can have and I could not believe that we were facing the unknown.

Dr. Watnick saved my life. She sent me to University of Michigan, where I received excellent care. I had surgery and a week later, got the all clear from my pathology report.

When I was a young adult, in my late teens and through my 20's, I did go into the tanning beds. I wanted to get color for dances and vacations. At the time, I do not remember any warning that was posted telling the risk that was involved. I don't remember having to have parental consent. As a parent of four minor children, I feel that it is very important that there be warnings posted and that all minors have to have parental consent. I feel it is our responsibility as parents to protect our children from potentially devastating consequences. If there are warning labels on cigarettes, alcohol and other items with potential risk, then tanning bed too should also carry a warning.

It has been 5 ½ years since my ordeal. There is not a day that goes that I don't thank God for my blessing.

Thank you for your time.

Cheryl Ruffolo

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